

VA**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

News Release

Office of Public Affairs
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May 22, 2015**MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY****Memorial Day 2015**

Many have heard the saying, "Poor is the Nation that has no heroes, but beggared is the Nation that has and forgets them."

On this Memorial Day, let us pause to remember those who gave the last full measure of devotion for our Nation. Let us remember the special nobility and grace of those who donned the uniforms of our country and sacrificed their lives during times of conflict. Let us remember—as we renew our commitment to honor those we have lost—that, every day, dedicated men and women put their lives on the line to protect all of us. We owe them all our deepest gratitude.

Over 70 years ago, on June 6, 1944, 175,000 American, Canadian, and British troops spearheaded the Allies' assault against the forces of tyranny threatening millions of people across Europe. Exposed to devastating fire on the beaches of Normandy, those brave souls established a beachhead, began the Allied march across Europe, and sent a message of hope across the continent. That message, writ large by the hands of heroes, signaled Freedom's triumph over evil and the preface to peace for a world too long at war.

From the opening rounds of the American Revolution, through the devastation of the Civil War, through World War I, World War II, and Korea, through Vietnam and Desert Storm, to those who have fought—and fight still today—so hard and valiantly in Afghanistan and Iraq, more than a million American Servicemembers have paid the ultimate price to secure the blessings of liberty for our Nation and our allies around the world.

As many of our National Cemetery Administration employees prepare our cemeteries, our national shrines, and work on Memorial Day activities to welcome our guests, I encourage all of us to show our support for Veterans and honor those who have passed by attending or participating in an event at a national cemetery near you. For a complete listing, please visit: http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/2015_Memorial_Day_Ceremonies.asp

At VA, we honor those lost in the way we care for those who returned home—and for their families and Survivors. Thank you for all that you do for Veterans. It is a privilege to serve with each one of you in fulfilling our sacred mission.

On this Memorial Day, may God bless our Veterans, their families, all of our VA employees and your families, and our great Nation.

Robert A. McDonald